

Application No.: 10/659816
Amendment dated: March 15, 2005
Reply to Office action of December 15, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-27 (cancelled)

28(new). A checkout system comprising:

a front module having an upper support surface for supporting articles;
a rear module having an upper support surface for supporting bags filled with articles; and
a bagging module located between the front and rear modules, the bagging module comprising a bag support engageable with an upper part of a bag for holding the bag in an upright and open condition for receiving articles, said bag support being movable horizontally from a position at which a bag held by the bag support is located adjacent a clerk on one side of the checkout system to a position in which the bag is delivered to a customer on the other side of the checkout system;

wherein said bag support is vertically movable downward, from an operative position wherein a bag may be supported by said bag support in an upright and open condition for receiving article, to a stowed position wherein an uppermost portion of said

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support is below said upper support surfaces of said front and rear modules.

29(new). The checkout system according to claim 28, wherein said bagging module further comprises a table, movable horizontally with said bag support, said table having an upwardly facing support surface engageable with the bottom of a bag held by said bag support.

30(new). The checkout system according to claim 28, wherein said bag support comprises arms engageable with upper parts of plural bags spaced laterally from one another, for holding said laterally spaced bags in an upright and open condition for receiving articles.

31(new). The checkout system according to claim 28, wherein one of said front and rear modules includes an extendible member having an article-supporting surface, said extendible member being extendible over said bagging module when said bag support is moved to its stowed position, whereby said article-supporting surface extends from said front module to said rear module above said bagging module.

32(new). The checkout system according to claim 31, in which at least part of said bag support, when in its said operative position, occupies space which is occupied by said extendible member when said extendible member extends over said bagging module.

33(new). The checkout system according to claim 28, wherein the upper support surface of the front module is a

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movable conveyor for transporting articles, and wherein said movable conveyor is extendible over said bagging module when said bag support is moved to its stowed position.

34(new). The checkout system according to claim 33, in which at least part of said bag support, when in its said operative position, occupies space which is occupied by said movable conveyor when said movable conveyor extends over said bagging module.

35(new). A checkout system comprising:
a front module having an upper support surface for supporting articles;
a rear module having an upper support surface for supporting bags filled with articles; and
a bagging module located between the front and rear modules, the bagging module comprising a bag support engageable with an upper part of a bag for holding the bag in an upright and open condition for receiving articles, said bag support being rotatable about a vertical axis laterally spaced from the location at which the bag is held by the bag support, from a position at which a bag held by the bag support is located adjacent a clerk on one side of the checkout system to a position in which the bag is delivered to a customer on the other side of the checkout system;
wherein said bag support is vertically movable downward, from an operative position wherein a bag may be supported by said bag support in an upright and open condition for receiving article, to a stowed

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position wherein an uppermost portion of said support is below said upper support surfaces of said front and rear modules.

36(new). The checkout system according to claim 35, wherein said bagging module further comprises a table rotatable with said bag support about said vertical axis, said table having an upwardly facing support surface engageable with the bottom of a bag held by said bag support.

37(new). The checkout system according to claim 36, wherein said bag support comprises a vertical member disposed along said axis, said vertical member extending through said table at least when said bag support is moved to its stowed position.

38(new). The checkout system according to claim 35, wherein said bag support includes a vertical member extending along said vertical axis, and arms extending laterally from said vertical member, said arms being engageable with upper parts of plural bags spaced from one another circumferentially around said vertical axis, for holding said bags in an upright and open condition for receiving articles.

39(new). The checkout system according to claim 35, wherein one of said front and rear modules includes an extendible member having an article-supporting surface, said extendible member being extendible over said bagging module when said bag support is moved to its stowed position, whereby said article-supporting surface extends from said front module to said rear module above said bagging module.

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40(new). The checkout system according to claim 39, in which at least part of said bag support, when in its said operative position, occupies space which is occupied by said extendible member when said extendible member extends over said bagging module.

41(new). The checkout system according to claim 35, wherein the upper support surface of the front module is a movable conveyor for transporting articles, and wherein said movable conveyor is extendible over said bagging module when said extendible support is moved to its stowed position.

42(new). The checkout system according to claim 41, in which at least part of said bag support, when in its said operative position, occupies space which is occupied by said movable conveyor when said movable conveyor extends over said bagging module.